

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS

1. Point Source Control Program

Contact: Mike Barden, DEP BLWQ, Division of Water Resource Regulation, (207) 287-7700.

Maine law makes it illegal to discharge wastes to Maine waters without a license. To receive a license, an applicant has to provide treatment prescribed for the type of facility and must show that the discharge will not impair designated uses. Discharges are currently relicensed every five years. The goal is to produce higher quality discharges that improve protection. Virtually all point source discharges in Maine receive treatment.

For more information related to industrial and municipal wastewater licensing and treatment, see Part II of the complete 305(b) or contact the DEP BLWQ.

2. Nonpoint Source Control Program

Contact: Norm Marcotte, DEP BLWQ, Division of Watershed Management (207) 287- 7727.

The Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Management Program is designed to restore and protect water resources from pollution caused by nonpoint sources. The basic program objective is to encourage people to use structures or practices that will minimize erosion, runoff, and resulting water pollution. These are known as **"Best Management Practices"** (BMPs). Volunteer watershed surveys are conducted to identify nonpoint pollutant sources. The information is then evaluated by professionals who identify possible solutions. In 1994-95, the Department provided direct technical assistance and information about BMPs to agencies, municipalities, businesses, and individuals, and administered a NPS Pollution Prevention Grants program (the federally funded "319" program). This program provided financial assistance to sponsors that encouraged or implemented BMPs through education efforts and field projects. The DEP has published BMP manuals for *Erosion and Sedimentation Control*, *Stormwater Quantity and Quality Control*, *Marinas and Boatyards*, *Phosphorus Control in Lake Watersheds*, *Agricultural Nonpoint Sources*, and for *Maine Timber Harvesting Operations*.

3. Pollution Prevention Program

Contact: Don Albert, DEP BLWQ, Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance, (207) 287-3901

Pollution prevention ("P2"), is a concept which emphasizes the value and importance of reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated opposed to cleanup. P2 is conducted at the industrial, municipal, and individual levels. On-site technical assistance has been provided to pulp and paper mills resulting in reduced pollution and cost savings in the process. City and town officials have benefitted from technical assistance through help with long-term planning and violation avoidance. Local officials along with citizen groups within watersheds have also organized to implement many pollution prevention activities, such as those occurring during the Androscoggin River Basin Project. Fixing septic systems, organizing hazardous waste collection days and river and coastal clean-ups are all part of this very successful project.